

LIST OF CERTIFIED SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Congress found that personal injuries and illnesses arising out of work situations imposed a substantial burden upon our economy in terms of lost production, wage loss, medical expenses, and disability compensation payments. Thus it enacted the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Its purpose was to reduce the number and costs of occupational injuries and illnesses by several means--one of which was to stimulate employers and employees to institute new and to perfect existing programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions.

Like Congress, Hawaii's employers found that workers' compensation claims were imposing a substantial burden on their businesses and lobbied the Legislature for workers' compensation reform. As a result, the **Legislature enacted Act 234 in 1995**. But **Act 234** is more than workers' compensation reform--it **is the integration of workers' compensation insurance premium discount**.

Act 234 added section 396-4.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide for the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to qualify individuals as Certified Safety and Health Professionals under section 12-58-2, Hawaii Administrative Rules**, and for **Certified Safety and Health Professionals to certify that an employer has an effective safety and health program and thus qualifies for a five percent workers' compensation insurance premium discount under section 431:14-103(b) and (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes**.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has so far qualified the following individuals as Certified Safety and Health Professionals:

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Safety

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Safety & Health

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Safety & Health

John E. Garofalo
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Health

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Midwest Insurance
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Safety

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San Onstruction, LLC
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Safety & Health

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Safety

Alton T. O. Wong
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Safety

These individuals may also certify that an employer qualifies for focused inspections at construction sites. To qualify for focused inspections, contractors must have an effective safety and health program **and** a person responsible for and capable for implementing the program.